

R E M A R K S

The claims in the case are claims 1-10. The claims were amended in the preliminary examination. The claims have been amended further to eliminate multiple dependency and to put them in better form for U.S. filing.

No new matter is included.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. B. Keil', is written over the printed name.

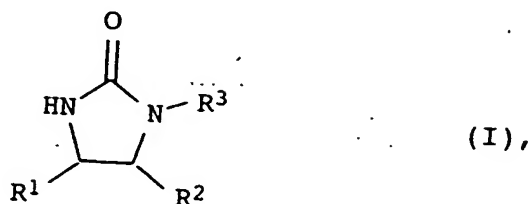
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1. (original) A process for preparing chiral imidazolidin-2-ones of the general formula I

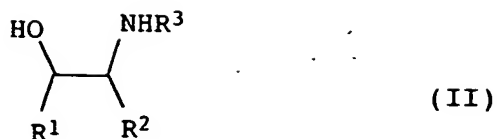


in which

- R^1 is C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl, a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl-, halo-, nitro-, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy-, C_1 - C_6 -alkylmercapto- or CF_3 -substituted phenyl radical, naphthyl or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl-, halo-, nitro-, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy- or CF_3 -substituted naphthyl radical,
- R^2 is C_1 - C_8 -alkyl, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or a phenyl- C_1 - C_6 -alkyl radical which may be substituted by a nitro, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, methylenedioxy or CF_3 radical, and
- R^3 is C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, C_2 - C_8 -alkenyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or a C_1 - C_6 -alkyl-, halo-, nitro-, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy-, methylenedioxy-, dialkylamino- or CF_3 -substituted phenyl radical,

by reacting a compound of the formula II or the salt thereof

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in which R¹, R² and R³ have the abovementioned meaning,

with urea in the presence of an ammonium salt, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of a polar organic solvent and the reaction takes place in solution at temperatures of from 170 to 190°C.

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein an aprotic solvent is used.
3. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein N-methylpyrrolidone is employed as organic solvent.
4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein R¹ is phenyl and R² and R³ are methyl.
5. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the reaction is carried out in the presence of proton donors, wherein an acid with a pKa of 3 to 3.3

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is used as proton donor.

6. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~claims 1 to 5~~, wherein para-toluenesulfonic acid is employed
as proton donor.
7. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~claims 1 to 6~~, wherein sulfamic acid is employed as proton
donor.
8. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~claims 1 to 7~~, wherein the proton donor is employed in
amounts of from 0.05 to 0.6 equivalent based on the compound
of the formula II.
9. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~claims 1 to 8~~, wherein (1S,2R)-ephedrine or a salt thereof is
employed as compound of the formula II.
10. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~any of~~
~~claims 1 to 9~~, wherein (1R,2S)-ephedrine or a salt thereof is
employed as compound of the formula II.